

OPINION 1724

Helophorus Fabricius, 1775 (Insecta, Coleoptera): conserved as correct original spelling

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers the correct original spelling of the generic name *Elophorus* Fabricius, 1775 is hereby deemed to be *Helophorus*.

(2) The name *Helophorus* Fabricius, 1775 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Latreille (1810) *Silpha aquatica* Linnaeus, 1758, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology, spelling ruled in (1) above.

(3) The name *aquatica* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Silpha aquatica* (specific name of the type species of *Helophorus* Fabricius, 1775), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

(4) The name *Elophorus* Fabricius, 1775 is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology (ruled in (1) above to be an incorrect original spelling).

History of Case 2796

An application for the conservation of the spelling of *Helophorus* Fabricius, 1775 was received from Dr R.B. Angus (*Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, Egham, Surrey, U.K.*) on 18 October 1990. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 49: 30–31 (March 1992). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

Comments in support from Drs A. Smetana (*Centre for Land and Biological Resources Research, Agriculture Canada, Ottawa, Canada*), G.N. Foster (*The Balfour-Browne Club, Ayr, Scotland, U.K.*), Alfred F. Newton Jr. (*Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.*), Paul J. Spangler (*National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.*), D.T. Bilton (*Institutionen för Genetik, Uppsala Universitet, Sweden*), Hans Silfverberg (*Universitetets Zoologiska Museum, Helsingfors, Finland*) and Prof J.A. Owen (*Epsom, Surrey, U.K.*) were published in BZN 49: 230–232 (September 1992).

It was noted on the voting paper that a further comment in support was received from Dr Franz Hebauer (*Institut für Zoologie der Universität, Kassel, Germany*). A comment from Dr Michael Hansen (*Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark*), received during the voting period, noted: 'The spelling *Helophorus* is now being almost universally used, and has been used in most papers during this century (and this includes hundreds of papers) and all major treatments within the last decades. Since the genus is often referred to it is desirable to get the correct spelling settled'.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 1992 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 49: 31. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 1993 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 28: Bayer, Bock, Bouchet, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Dupuis, Hahn, Halvorsen, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Kraus, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Thompson, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 1: Štys.

Voting for, Heppell commented that the spelling *Helophorus* was that originally used for the erection of a family-group name. Voting against, Štys did not consider that the Commission should accept the modern practice of using *Helophorus*: at least since Chiesa (1959) and McCorkle (1965) it had been well known that the original spelling was *Elophorus*.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

aquatica, *Silpha*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Systema Naturae*, Ed. 10, vol. 1, p. 362.

Elophorus Fabricius, 1775, *Systema Entomologiae*, p. 66 (an incorrect original spelling of *Helophorus*).

Helophorus Fabricius, 1775, *Systema Entomologiae*, p. 66 (incorrectly spelled as *Elophorus*).